



Specimen Information for Zika Virus Testing through Public Health

Suspected and confirmed Zika infections are reportable to the State — 907-269-8000

Public health offers and can facilitate testing for Zika Virus. Appropriate collection and labelling of specimens is crucial. Additionally, there are now commercial laboratories which offer testing; providers can coordinate directly with these companies. *Regardless of where testing occurs, **all** suspected cases of Zika Virus in Alaska must be reported to the Section of Epidemiology (SOE) within five (5) days at (907) 269-8000.*

Alaska State Public Health Laboratory – In-State PCR Testing

Time from Symptoms	Type of Specimens	Minimum Amounts	Time to Results
3 < 7 days	-Urine AND serum -CSF AND serum -Whole Blood (EDTA) AND serum	-1.5mL urine; 1.5mL serum -1.0mL CSF; 1.5mL serum -1.0mL Whole Blood (EDTA); 1.5mL serum	2-5 business days <i>Note:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive specimens are final• Negative specimens are sent to referral lab for serologic testing**
3 < 14 days	-Urine AND serum -Whole Blood (EDTA) AND serum	-1.5mL urine; 1.5mL serum -1.0mL Whole Blood (EDTA); 1.5mL serum	

Referral Public Health Laboratory – Send-out Serologic Testing

Time from Symptoms	Type of Specimens	Minimum Amounts	Time to Results**
14+ days OR No symptoms	Serum CSF AND serum	0.5 mL 1.0 mL CSF; 0.5 mL serum	6-8 weeks

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Whole blood (EDTA) and serum are acceptable for PCR testing within 14 days of symptom onset or within 14 days of exposure for asymptomatic pregnant persons. Do not freeze whole blood, keep cold.
- If sender cannot separate blood for serology testing, ask them to spin down serum separator tube prior to sending to the lab, where they can separate and send the serum.
- Please transfer urine, serum or CSF to a plastic tube with screw cap measuring no more than 5 cm tall and approximately 13 mm in diameter (e.g., 1.8 mL cryotube or 2.0 mL microtube).
- Depending on timing of symptoms and testing results, follow-up blood samples may be requested.
- All specimens should be kept cold/frozen. Samples may be placed in an insulated container with ice packs.

SPECIMEN SHIPPING

Please ship Monday-Friday during normal business operations. The Alaska State Public Health Laboratory will forward appropriate specimens to referral public health labs for testing. Ship specimen and lab requisitions to:

Alaska State Public Health Laboratory
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99507
Ph: 907-334-2100

Alaska State Virology Laboratory
931 Sheenjek Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99775
Ph: 907-371-1000

RESULT REPORTING

SOE will notify the ordering provider of the result by phone; a hard copy of results will then be sent afterwards.

**Some commercial labs are starting to offer testing; SOE will not pay for or ship these specimens. Providers should be aware of caveats associated with these results: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00392.asp>*